Russell Wilson threw for 452 yards and four touchdowns

FANTASTIC FINISH

Russell Wilson's heroics lead Seahawks to wild, 41-38 win over Texans SEAHAWKS EXTRA > C1

Jimmy Graham's 18-yard TD catch from Wilson with 21 seconds left was the game winner

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017

The Seattle Times

WINNER OF 10 PULITZER PRIZES

$1.50

INDEPENDENT AND LOCALLY OWNED FOR MORE THAN 121 YEARS

SEATTLETIMES.COM

SUNNY
High, 58. Low, 41. > B8
seattletimes.com/weather

China's crackdown may send more recycling to our landfills

Much of what we put in our curbside bins is shipped across the Pacific. But China is sharply restricting imports of recycled materials, and the Northwest will feel the effects.

ELLEN M. BANNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

A heavy-equipment operator picks up recyclables so they can be bundled and shipped from a Republic Services facility in Seattle this month. Some of the bundles are put on trains destined for U.S. manufacturers, while others go into containers for overseas shipments.

By HAL BERNTON
Seattle Times staff reporter

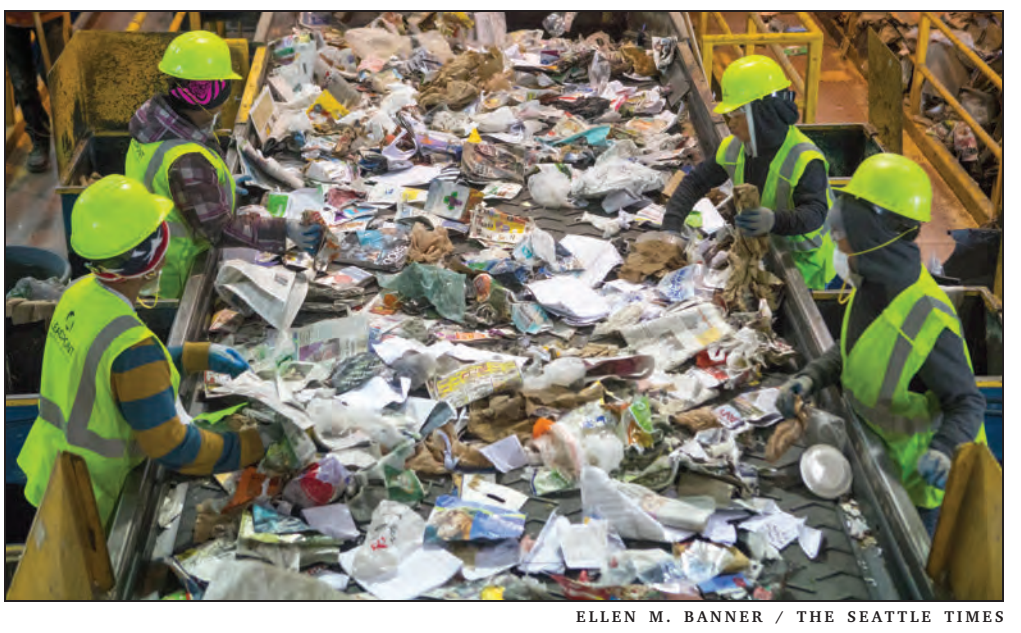
Big changes are ahead for Northwest recyclers that have long depended on shipping low-value materials to China, where manufacturers re-use the paper, plastics and scrap metal to make boxes, cans, cellphone cases and many other products.

Some of those materials now may end up in the region's landfills as China rolls out new rules in January that ban imports of 24 types of recyclables and sharply restrict the amount of contamination in other imported waste materials, which is expected to increase processing costs in the U.S.

In Seattle, recycling of about 60 percent of municipal solid wastes this year has earned a thin profit. But China's shift threatens to slash that revenue if the markets are swamped by material that can no longer be shipped off to the world's largest importer of recycling materials.

"It's a significant area of concern for all of the industry," said Hans Van Dusen, solid-waste-contract manager at Seattle Public Utilities, which offers recycling as a free service to city residents while charging for garbage removal.

Last year, recyclers shipped to China through the ports of Seattle and Tacoma more than 790,000 metric tons of such materials — equivalent to more than 238 pounds of recyclables from every person in Washington.



ELLEN M. BANNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Quality-control employees sort through recyclables recently at the Republic Services center in Seattle. The company uses a mix of workers and technology to do the sorting.

China's new rules are part of a broader overhaul of its recycling industry, which has long operated under more lax environmental regulation than in the U.S.

"They are completely and massively reorganizing their entire waste and recycling system," said Joshua Goldstein, a University of Southern California associate professor who studies China's recycling industry.

Already, U.S. recycling companies that sort and market all these materials in Wash-

See > RECYCLING, A7

Manafort, Flynn seen as 'likely' targets

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

With an indictment possible today, speculation — and Trump tweets — heating up

Tribune Washington Bureau (TNS) and The New York Times

WASHINGTON — One of two former top strategists for the Trump campaign is "likely" to face indictment as early as Monday, a senior Democrat said Sunday, joining the speculation on what would be the first criminal charges in the intensifying probe led by special counsel Robert Mueller III into members of President Donald Trump's inner orbit.

President Trump again condemns "witch hunt."

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, said a federal judge could unseal an indictment against either Paul Manafort, Trump's former campaign manager, or Michael Flynn, who briefly served as Trump's national-security adviser in the White House.

Robert Mueller investigating Trump, associates.

Schiff's comments came amid intense speculation at the White House and on Capitol Hill over media reports that a federal grand jury in Washington has approved its first indictment in the FBI investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election and whether members of Trump's campaign actively colluded with Moscow.

Schiff, a former federal prosecutor in Los Angeles, said he was reacting to news reports and could not confirm

See > RUSSIA, A5

ON THE WEB

Who is being indicted?
The first charges in the Mueller investigation could become public today. Watch for updates at ***seattletimes.com***

Puerto Rico utility to cancel tiny company's contract

WHITEFISH ENERGY

Deal draws increased scrutiny as most of the island still lacks power

By FRANCES ROBLES and DEBORAH ACOSTA
The New York Times

Facing withering criticism from members of Congress and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the governor of Puerto Rico moved Sunday to cancel a $300 million contract awarded to a small Montana company to rebuild part of the island's battered power grid.

While government officials in Washington and San Juan have argued over how a company from Whitefish, Montana, with connections to the secretary of the interior but only two full-time employees, secured an emergency contract that requires the work of thousands of people, the majority of Puerto Rico is still without electricity, nearly six weeks after Hurricane Maria.

Some stores, medical centers, restaurants and a fortunate few private residences are running on generators, but most of the island's 3.4 million people are plunged into darkness after sunset.

The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, known as PREPA, is generating just 30 percent of its normal output, the government said. The authority has estimated that repairs will cost at least $1 billion.

Gov. Ricardo Rossell announced Sunday that he had decided to ask the power authority's board — which he appoints — to cancel the con-

See > PUERTO RICO, A8

© 2017 Seattle Times Co.
Our newsprint contains recycled fiber, and inks are reused.

The Seattle Times Alaska Mileage Plan good PROUDLY PRESENT

SEATTLE RESTAURANT WEEK

NOW INCLUDING DINE AROUND SEATTLE

3 COURSES FOR $33 | 165+ RESTAURANTS PARTICIPATING

3 WEEKS VALID SUNDAY-THURSDAY ONLY OCT. 15–NOV. 2

Get all the delicious details at SRWEEK.com